

# DOMESTICS' CROSS-CULTURAL NEWS

**INTERCEDE** for the Rights of Domestic Workers, Caregivers, and Newcomers

Toll Free 1-877-483-4554

June 2002



## LCP AND ESA – TOPICS AT FORUM LED BY INTERCEDE'S "ADVOCATES"

Despite amateur jitters and butterflies in their stomachs, INTERCEDE's new "Advocates" mustered their nerves and faced "the Public" for the first time.

Their message was more important and they had prepared their best to lead the information forum on the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP) held on May 22 at MetroHall, where a small but influential group of visitors came to listen.

It was the least they could do to contribute their bit in building support for INTERCEDE's recommendations to improve the lives of migrant caregivers and domestic workers in Canada.

It was also the culmination of a year and a half of training, meetings and planning that at least a dozen women had gone through in order to bring attention to the recommendations made in INTERCEDE's research entitled "Caregivers Break The Silence".

Anita Fortuno, now a counsellor of INTERCEDE, gave a description of the federal LCP and the provincial ESA, and showed how in combination, these two sets of regulations make caregiver/domestic workers vulnerable to abuses, including emotional and psychological violence.

She further stressed that new immigration requirements for caregivers to sign a work contract before being admitted to the LCP will not benefit the women, but rather will add to their vulnerability to abusive employers. In combination with the new ESA, she said, a contract will tie a woman to 60-hour weeks, reduced overtime payments, and all the other disadvantageous provisions of Ontario's labour law passed since September last year. Such a contract will be used to prevent a caregiver/domestic workers from leaving an abusive employer.

Bong Castro spoke from the heart, describing the trials of being separated from her young children and finding them, years later, all grown up and realising how she had missed the years in between. There was not a dry eye in the audience, as she related her helplessness at not being around during times when crises occurred and at missed opportunities to give them parental support.

For her part, Vicky Policarpio described the frustrations she felt at having to tolerate abuses of her worker's rights and violations of her human rights, even while she was fully aware they were indeed against the law.

## JOIN INTERCEDE'S ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP TRAINING Focus on Live-in Caregivers and Ontario's Employment Standards Act

Six months starting in July  
Register now 416-483-4554 ext 21

*"I learned about my rights and how to become assertive – now I am treated with more respect!" – Series participant*  
(Funding for this series by Status of Women Canada – Ontario region)

*All Domestic/Caregiver workers,  
Newcomers and those on Temporary Work  
Permit are welcome to attend*

**INTERCEDE MEETING**  
**Every First Sunday of the Month**

(if holiday, meeting is on the second Sunday)

Apply or renew you membership - \$10.

Sunday, June 2, 2002, 3-5 p.m.  
At Cecil Community Centre, 58 Cecil St.  
(one block south of College cor. Spadina)

**IMMIGRATION Q AND A**  
With INTERCEDE Counsellors



Completing the 24-month live-in work requirement in order to qualify for landed immigrant status was her determined goal so that she could reunite with her family. That dream helped her tolerate an intolerable situation until she could no longer withstand the humiliations she experienced and had to leave and look for a new employer.

"I thought reuniting with my family would be the beginning of my never-ending happiness" – this was Allen Fabro's expectation. Little did she know the formidable challenges she and her children would have to tackle in order to resume their life together. Guilt, blame, emotional distance, anger – had to be overcome and a new balance had to be found before she could find her balance again.

Consular and labour officials from the Philippines and from Trinidad/Tobago honoured the occasion with their presence, and their questions and suggestions. Media representatives sought to photograph the panel and visitors and record the proceedings of the meeting.

Opening and closing the program, Bernice Small appealed to visitors to read INTERCEDE's recommendations and support them. She credited the Advocacy and Leadership training for giving women the confidence and assurance to speak and impart their appeal for support. This training was funded this year through Toronto's Access and Equity and Breaking the Cycle of Violence Grants.



## WHAT'S NEW IN IMMIGRATION FOR PERMANENT RESIDENTS?

The current Act requires a permanent resident to meet subjective criteria based on the intention of the person not to abandon Canada as the place of permanent residence.

Under Immigration & Refugee Protection Act a (IRPA) permanent resident must still meet residing requirements in order to maintain permanent residents status. However, IRPA replaces the intention of the person with a test based on objective, measurable circumstance. This creates significant changes for the determination of loss of permanent residence.

Permanent resident status is maintained if a person meets the 730 day residency requirement within each 5 year period. The returning resident permit no longer exists.

There are 4 ways of meeting the residency requirements. The 730 days can be accumulated through one or a combination of the four following situations.

- ☆ physically present in Canada
- ☆ residing abroad with a Canadian Citizen
- ☆ working abroad for a Canadian Employer
- ☆ residing abroad with a permanent resident who works for a Canadian Employer

Residing abroad with a Canadian Citizen spouse or common-law partner is counted toward the required 730 days.

In the case of a child, time spent accompanying their Canadian citizen parent is also counted.

Permanent Residents who work abroad full-time for a Canadian employer can count that time toward the minimum requirements of 730 days within each period of 5 years.

In the case of a permanent resident working abroad full time for a Canadian employer, their accompanying spouse or common law partner and their children maintain their permanent resident status. (Extracted from Immigration and Refugee Protection Act -CIC Training CD).



## GOOD NEWS!!!

**INTERCEDE** is now extending its services one Sunday a month.

**When:** Every first Sunday of the Month, (if holiday, on the second Sunday).

**Where:** Mezzanine Rm., 58 Cecil Community Centre, Cecil St. (one block south of College cor. Spadina)

**Time:** 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

By appointment only,  
please call 416-483-4554 extensions 22 and 23 for

## SPRING TRIP TO NIAGARA

On May 19, 2002, INTERCEDE took a trip to Niagara Falls. We were joined by 37 caregivers and newcomers and for most of them, this was their first visit to the Falls.

Everyone had a great time! We toured Niagara-on-the-Lake, and went to town and had our lunch there. Then we proceeded to the Flower Clock with its "30,000 flowers". According to the bus driver this is the best time to visit Niagara when the flowers: the tulips, daffodils, and magnolias are in full bloom. We enjoyed the beautiful sights with the bus driver and Coco Diaz acting as our tour guides.

Some went to Casino Niagara to try their luck but most of us preferred to cash our \$10 vouchers and go to Niagara Falls where we enjoyed the magnificent waterfalls, walked along the lake and took pictures.

Time went by so fast that we realized it was almost time to go back since we were bound to return to Toronto by 8:15 p.m. Everyone enjoyed that trip and are all looking forward to other trips this summer.

We promised to keep everyone posted about trips in the future. If you have any suggestion as to where you want to visit this summer, give us a call at INTERCEDE office.





## Job Search Tips DEAL WITH NEGATIVE EMOTIONS WHILE LOOKING FOR A JOB

After a caregiver completes the LCP, being unemployed and finding a new employer in the broader labour market is not an easy task. Being in the state of job loss – the gap in between having a full time caregiving job and searching for a new one could be an overwhelmingly upsetting experience. This is also true for caregivers who realize that the only option left for them is to cease working for an employer and look for a new one while completing the program.

Here are a few tips to help you deal with job loss:

- **The gap between being unemployed and finding a new employer is inevitable.** Realize that losing one's job happens to everyone – from the new graduate looking for her or his first job, to company president to the newest staff in a company.
- **Being unemployed is not your fault.** You may be surprised when an employer suddenly decides to stop you from working as a caregiver for her or his family due to financial concerns. Understand that many changes are taking place in today's economy that is simply beyond employers' and employees' control.
- **Realize that you have skills, personal attributes and valuable experience** that an employer will want.
- **Tell everyone you meet that you are looking for work.** Even if you're just buying food from your nearest convenience store, you'll never know --- if you are at the right place, at the right time with your persistent job search effort.
- **Keep in mind your end objective after completing LCP program** – it may be for the ones you love who depend and look up to you. Recall the goal you've set for yourself. Remember – if you wish to see your rainbow (your dream), you have to put up with the rain (sacrifices along the way).
- **Find someone who can help you with your job search process.** Choose someone who is positive and will help keep you motivated when discouragement sets in. A counselor or job search facilitator or a friend you trust can be your mentor.

**Keep your hopes up!**



## FREE JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP FOR NEWCOMERS

**When: Tuesdays and Thursdays**  
**June== 11, 13, 18, & 20, 2002**  
**July== 09, 11, 16 & 18, 2002**  
**5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**Where: INTERCEDE**  
**234 Eglinton Ave. East, Suite 205**  
**(Eglinton & Mt. Pleasant)**  
**Toronto, On. M4P 1K5**

**Please call (416)483-4554 ext. 21 to sign up.**  
**Seating is limited.**

**Coco's corner:**

### CONSEQUENCES OF LYING TO IMMIGRATION

- ◆ I came as dependant of my parents who were sponsored by my older sister under the Family Class. After two years in Canada, I went back to the Philippines and married the mother of my two sons. On my return in Canada, I filed the sponsorship under the Family Class for my wife and included our sons who I did not declare in my original application. Immigration refused my sponsorship and my Permanent Resident status is also in question. My lying or misrepresentation about my dependants is under investigation and I do not know what is going to happen. Had I not been wrongly advised to withhold information about my sons, my family would have been reunited last Christmas.
- ◆ The approval of my Permanent Resident application under the Live-in Caregiver is long overdue because I misrepresented my marital status. I stated in my application that I was single and had never married. I hid the fact that I left my abusive husband and never had any communication with him. In addition, I do not know his whereabouts. Immigration called my attention to the fact that I did not declare my spouse, and returned my application. I paid an enormous amount of money to an Immigration lawyer who said, he could help me. It was too late when I learned that INTERCEDE could help me.
- ◆ Immigration questioned my qualification under the Live-in Caregiver Program and requested for Authentication of original school certificates. What prompted Immigration to do this was a report from a previous employer who wants to destroy my credibility. I was interrogated and treated like a criminal because of a lie fabricated by this employer. But truth always prevails and I have overcome.





**INTERCEDE CAREGIVERS  
CO-OPERATIVE, INC.**

**OUT OF PROVINCE GROUP TOUR  
MONTREAL-QUEBEC  
August 2-4, 2002 (Friday-Sunday)**

**Price: \$160.00**

**Ticket include entrances to:**

- ◆ Notre-Dame Basilica
- ◆ St. Joseph Oratory
- ◆ Biosphere
- ◆ Wax Museum
- ◆ Montmorency Falls
- ◆ Overnight stay in a hotel
- ◆ Plus \$10 Casino voucher

**For Reservation, please contact:-**

Jo at 416-573-8983  
Josie at 416-544-8449

**INTERCEDE**

Address: 234 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 205  
Toronto Ontario  
M4P 1K5

Regular Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am - 4 p.m.  
Telephone: (416) 483-4554  
Fax: (416) 483-9781  
Toll-Free: 1-877-483-4554  
E-mail: info@intercedetoronto.org

**INTERCEDE STAFF:**

Fely Villasin - Coordinator  
Des Balce - JSW Facilitator  
Columbia Diaz - Settlement Counsellor  
Anita Fortuno - Settlement/Counsellor  
Genie Policarpio - Intake & Administrative Assistant

**LOOKING FOR WORK?**

**FOREIGN TRAINED NURSE**

**Thursday, June 6, 2002  
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Ms. Brenda Lewis of College of Nurses of Ontario will discuss:

1. Obtaining R.N. license to practice in Ontario
2. PSW becoming RPNs
3. Shortage in Nursing Profession in Ontario

**FOREIGN TRAINED ENGINEER**

**Wednesday, June 26, 2002  
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Mr. G. Meade of the Professional Engineers of Ontario will give pointers in how to become a licensed Engineer in Ontario.

**WHERE:**

CAREER EMPLOYMENT RESOURCE PROGRAM  
95 Eddystone Ave. (West of Jane/South of Finch)

Call and register at 416-747-8401

Courtesy of :

**YMCA- Employment Services Information  
Warehouse (ESIW)**

**Funded by HRDC**

*We wish to thank: Citizenship and Immigration Canada - ISAP Program and Job Search Program with COSTI-OCASI; Ontario Status of Women; the Municipality of Toronto CSGP, Access & Equity and "Breaking the Cycle of Violence" grant programs. for their financial support.*

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